

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 IO-14 OMB-01 /102 W  
----- 128866

R 140542Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, VS

SUBJ: CAIRNS ON VIETNAM

1. ONLY FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF STATEMENTS IN HANOI BY OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER JAMES CAIRNS HAVE APPEARED IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS, BUT THIS PERFORMANCE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HIS MOST OFFENSIVE TO DATE. ACCORDING "MELBOURNE AGE" CAIRNS TOLD PHAM VAN DONG THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF USG SINCE 1953 HAD BEEN TO RETAIN GOVERNMENT OF ITS OWN CREATION AND CONTROL IN SAIGON AND TO CONTROL AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE IN BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. CAIRNS REPORTEDLY ADDED THE HE WOULD "FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT US ADMINISTRATION, AND PROBABLY EVEN ITS SUCCESSOR" WOULD GIVE UP THIS AIM COMPLETELY. REMARKS CITED REFTEL ABOUT AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF PRG APPARENTLY OCCURRED SEPARATELY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. THE OUTRAGEOUS ADDITIONS ABOUT US AGGRESSION WERE NOT REPORTED HERE.

2. REPLYING DECEMBER 14 TO A CRITICAL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FROM OPPOSITION LEADER, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM DEFENDED CAIRNS WITHOUT ADDRESSING PARTICULAR STATEMENTS CAIRNS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE.

3. I HAVE REQUESTED TEXT (OR FALING THIS, SUBSTANCE) OF CAIRNS' STATEMENTS THROUGH A STIFF FORMAL NOTE TO DEPARTMENT FOREIGN  
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AFFAIRS AND WILL FOLLOW UP AS APPROPRIATE. MY JAPANESE AND SOUTH

VIETNAMESE COLLEAGUES HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH FONMIN WILLESEE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CAIRNS' ALLEGED REMARKS ABOUT RECOGNITION OF PRG. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT EXPRESS CONCERN TO AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL AND RESERVE POSITION ON US REACTION PENDING RECEIPT OF TEXT. PAO HAS LEARNED THAT SUBSTANCE OF NEWS STORIES APPEARING HERE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO PLIMSOLL.

4. MEANWHILE, THERE MIGHT BE VIRTUE IN DICK SNEIDER OR ART ROSEN LETTING AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS IN WASHINGTON KNOW THAT WE TAKE VERY JAUNDICED VIEW OF CAIRNS' REPORTED BEHAVIOR.  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, RECOGNITION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CAIRNS ON VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, US, VS, VN, CH, (CAIRNS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005